

An Old Manuscript of *Kin'yôshihô* (*Qinyongzhifa*)
in the Hikone Castle Museum

:A study on an old manual describing the technical skills required to play the *qin*, a
Chinese seven-string zither

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This report studies the manuscript of *Kin'yôshihô* (*Qinyongzhifa*) in the Hikone Castle Museum (Research Number: V633, Bibliographic Name: *Kin'yôshidanhô*, Manuscript-scroll, 30.2 cm × 408.5 cm, simply referred to as Hikone Manuscript). This report demonstrates that the manuscript, which has been considered to be unknown since the commencement of the modern era, is the oldest one (Gomizunoo Manuscript).

Kin'yôshihô is well known as a novel manuscript that shows the styles of rendition of a *qin* before the Sui and the Tang Dynasties in China, and describes the technical skills required to play the *qin*, a Chinese seven-string plucked zither.

Some historical documents validate that the Gomizunoo Manuscript of *Kin'yôshihô* and the oldest musical score for *qin*, the *Kesseki-chô Yûran* (*Jieshi-diao Youlan*) No. 5, were bestowed on the Koma family, a Japanese Gagaku family, by the Emperor Gomizunoo (1596-1680). When the Gomizunoo Manuscript and the musical score were in the possession of the Koma family, Sorai Ogyû (1666-1728) excerpted the contents from the manuscript, refined them, and edited *Yûran-fu*. Unfortunately, no additional information on the Gomizunoo Manuscript has been obtained. The contents of *Kin'yôshihô* have been obtained through Kikkawa Manuscript, a traced copy, the existence of which was reported by Kenzô Hayashi in 1942, and also through the references in *Yûran-fu* edited by Sorai-Ogyû.

The study of these old manuscripts of *Kin'yôshihô* helped us conclude: 1) By investigative comparison with the photographic reprint and the transcriptional manuscript of the Kikkawa Manuscript, the Hikone Manuscript was proved to be the original of the Kikkawa Manuscript, and 2) The Hikone Manuscript could be considered to be the Gomizunoo Manuscript, on the basis of the examination of the records belonging to the Edo period describing about the *Shûfûraku*, a Japanese flute notation and the lyrics in writings on the reverse of the Gomizunoo Manuscript.